

IT'S GOOD TO BE

Home

Carrie Tergin | Jefferson City Mayor – Contributing Writer

“Since when do you have a sister?” I hear this often now when people learn there’s another Tergin in town! We’re the only Tergins that I know of anywhere, you’ll find many with the name “Terzis” if you go to Greece, which was my Grandfather George’s last name before they changed it to Tergin at Ellis Island.

So YES, Dr. Tergin is my sister! My little sister who is about a foot taller than me! My sister is one of the brightest and best doctors! When she made me a bowl of homemade soup last week with a note attached that she was trying to get the cooking award like I did in high school, I reminded her that I’ll never be the valedictorian and she’ll never get the cooking award!!

I’m artsy and she plays violin, she’s a Dr. and I’m the Mayor!

Growing up our family had only one Hallmark store, and it was named after me. So my little brother and sister were left to wonder where was the store with their name on it? Turns out they named Carrie’s Hallmark after the right child because my sister went on to be a dermatologist. Who knows, she could have done skin checks in between selling cards! She knew, though, that Jefferson City was way too small for her interests, and her friends had spread out all over the country. There was no reason for her to stay home, and after high school she was gone.

I say all of this to share with you one more reason why mid-Missouri is so incredible. My favorite stories are hearing about those who grew up here, left Jefferson City for big city life, only to realize that what we have here can not be found anywhere else. My sister spent forever in school far away, met a nice guy and they became Northerners, living in Minneapolis near his family. After ten years up north they had their first child, Baby George, named for our grandfather George, and my dad James George, and my brother George. (Who says the Greeks all name themselves after each other!?) After all, I’m only named after my grandmother and my cousin!

As much as she loved what the big city had to offer, Helen could not imagine raising George anywhere other than back home, near family. When an opportunity recently came up to work with a medical school colleague, she made the move and is now practicing at Central Missouri Dermatology in both their Jefferson City and Columbia offices.

She often tells me how nice the people are here in Mid-Missouri. Of course we are! Isn’t everyone?? She says people are genuinely kind here, not caught up in the rush of the big city. People often complain and compare Jefferson City, saying we lack jobs, nightlife, activities, etc., but when it really comes down to it, we have happiness and a caring community. That is what matters.

She tells me she hears daily, “Are you the mayor’s sister???” I couldn’t be prouder to have her in my town!



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